

# point three

September 1974



## Alexandra Rose Day

Reg Collins  
Point Three Correspondent

This year's Alexandra Rose Day collection was undertaken by members of most branches in the Wessex District with the help of several friends. The amount collected was £317.37. After meeting the cost of the roses and the HQ quota, the balance was distributed to the following organisations working among the elderly, handicapped and children: Broadwater Home for the elderly; Alma Road School for the handicapped; Help the Aged—for *Tours* newspaper; Bournemouth and Christchurch joint branch of Toc H for outings with the elderly; Parkstone pre-school play group minibus; St John Ambulance Brigade and Bournemouth Multiple Sclerosis Society. Harold and Edith Niblett of the Bournemouth and Christchurch joint branch again organised the collection.



The 'Roll the Ball' stand run by the Bournemouth and Christchurch Toc H at the Alma Road School for the Handicapped annual fete. They raised £5 at 2p per go! Photo: Reg Collins

## Blood Donor Campaign

Toc H at New Addington are mounting a campaign to find

more blood donors. They will be running a two-week advertising campaign and leaflets will be distributed from house to house giving details of the National Blood Transfusion Service which makes local visits twice a year. Mr Gus Tovey, secretary of the branch, said, 'We want to build up the number to several thousand. Giving blood used to be very popular but the numbers have dropped drastically in the past few years.'

## Local grant aid

Many Toc H branches must be unaware of the possibility of receiving grants from local authorities and other local funds. Several carnival and mayors' funds have been inviting applications from local voluntary organisations. Sheringham Toc H (Norfolk) received £500 from last year's Sheringham Carnival and another £200 this year, for work with the elderly. Tunbridge Wells branch is also in line for a hand-out from the 1974 carnival fund. So don't miss out. You may be entitled to a grant yourself.

## Essex Show

Janet Rauch, Chelmsford

This year the task of manning the canteen at the Essex Show has grown. The number of helpers has increased too, and nearly a hundred members together with families and friends were involved in what was agreed to be the friendliest show ever, despite the hard work! Financially, Chelmsford Toc H doubled their previous record and the profits were over £300 from which a donation was sent to the Family Purse. Some of this profit will, however, be needed

for considerable replacement of equipment and additional equipment for next year's show. Chelmsford has recognised the particularly good support it has received from both South-East and West Essex Districts of Toc H and has decided to support their local projects in return.

## MP visits Toc H Headquarters

Mr Timothy Raison, Member of Parliament for the Aylesbury Division, visited Toc H Headquarters on Friday 28 June. He was greeted by Sir Alexander Giles, Director, and Gilbert Francis, General Secretary of Toc H, and after meeting the Director-designate, Ken Prideaux-Brune, and heads of departments, Gilbert escorted him around the offices at HQ. Also present as a special guest of Headquarters was Miss Alice 'Ellie' Elton from Llandudno branch, North Wales. 'Ellie' had just completed a new flag for Headquarters which had been given with greetings from members in Wales, and Mr Raison obligingly broke out the flag at the masthead for the first time. A plaque commemorating the gift is now affixed to the flagpole.



Photo: Maurice Cousins



## Who are the extremists? A reply to Bob Knight

John Mitchell, Birmingham

Bob Knight's article in July *Point Three* is of value in so far as he rightly draws attention to very different types of extremism. But it is essential that the inherent danger in labels such as 'extremist' is not ignored. February's election was a perfect example of all who considered themselves 'moderate' using labels like 'extremist' with a notable lack of moderation. As a result, words become loaded and 'moderate' now conjures up an image of all things good, and 'extremist' the reverse.

Bob suggests that 'fanatical', 'angry' and 'murderous' are adjectives that can properly be applied to those seeking to force changes in Northern Ireland. Similar words were attached by, for example, Göebels to those we honoured as the 'brave resistance'—they too killed soldiers, killed collaborators, exploded bombs, and we deemed this a necessary evil. Real fairmindedness demands that we realise that to some of those taking up arms in Ireland their actions may also be seen, by them, as a necessary evil, which they will be relieved to give up when they feel they can. Fairmindedness also demands that we recognise that there may well be those who have prayed and wrestled with their consciences before killing, as so many Christians did in 1914, 1939 and so forth. To label them all as 'fanatical', 'angry' or 'murderous' is to indulge in a form of stereotyping that is incompatible with fairmindedness.

On a very different level, I must contest Bob's final sentence. 'The electorate is not fooled by the two-party system, and is getting wise to the detestable philosophy on which it rests.' One can only

assume he doesn't agree with a two-party system. If so, what does he prefer? If a one-party system, how does he suggest we prevent the emergence of an alternative party? If, on the other hand, he would like the sort of multi-party system which proportional representation would probably generate, he must accept the hard political facts that multi-party systems (a) tend to be more unstable, (b) lead to parties of more extreme views, and (c) remove from the electorate the chance to decide who shall be the government. The pattern in multi-party systems is almost always that governments are formed by a process of 'coalition building', after the election results are known (a process which usually exemplifies what is meant by 'horse dealing'), just as Edward Heath attempted in February. I am doubtful whether the 'moderate man' really wishes to leave the choice of government to the politicians!

Moreover, political scientists are unanimous in arguing that two-party systems, though they look like confrontation, in fact lead to consensus politics, for the simple reason that they are ultimately competing for the middle ground in order to achieve a majority, and thus tend to tailor their policies so as not to offend those 'in the middle'. The policies of both major parties in Britain are, demonstrably, very similar on many issues (not least Northern Ireland), and this contrasts with a very different situation when parties operate in a multi-party system, where there is a premium on being distinctive. The very fact, for example, that both major parties agree that we should have a 'mixed economy' is evidence of the sort of consensus that bipartism tends to generate and, for that matter, can be seen as precisely the sort of synthesis Hegel would have anticipated when the concept of private enterprise was confronted with the concept of public ownership!

## The Tubby Clayton coach

Canon 'Admiral' Benbow



Inside the new 'Tubby' coach, from the left: secretary James Bell, Charles Drury and George Ayto of Hythe Toc H

Photo: Kentish Express

Hythe branch, Kent, has recently purchased a new 15-seater coach for the elderly and infirm at a cost of nearly £4,000. Equipped with a hoist at the rear, it can accommodate, as an alternative, four wheelchairs and six sitting seats. It is in frequent use, especially at week-ends. It was dedicated by the branch padre, Canon Benbow ('the Admiral'), in memory of Tubby Clayton, whose name appears in bold lettering on the coach. Area Padre Polly Perkins assisted in the service which was attended by the Mayor and Councillors of Hythe and a large gathering of representatives and friends. A recent journey was made to Grestonstone, near Dungeness, to bring a wheelchair spastic girl into Hythe to receive her diploma at the annual meeting of the Red Cross. Other spastics have been brought into Folkestone for another of the 'mini-handi's' organised and run by the very active and keen Junior group.

A legacy of £500 towards the New Coach Fund was left by one elderly inmate of a nursing home. Every week, for two years, the old coach had brought her in her wheelchair to a Senior Citizens' club where she had made many friends. A matron also kindly presented £200.



## Recipe for Fun

Ken Ward  
Christchurch, New Zealand

Take 417 apples; 646 slices of toast; 245 pounds of assorted food; add 110 pints of milk and 13 intellectually handicapped children and 16 high school students; mix together well and leave for five days. **RESULT:** a bundle of fun and laughter.

This, the latest project of Toc H Christchurch, took place at Godley Head camp site. The high school students were from the new volunteer group Riccarton and probationary groups Aranui and Burnside.

For many of the children it was their first time away from home, and for the volunteers their first contact with intellectually handicapped children. No reason to worry, though, for soon there were couples (child and volunteer) walking round the camp getting to know each other. Activities covered a wide range but, apart from a sing-song each evening, each volunteer was left to entertain and amuse her own guest.

Thankfully, the weather was kind and we all got out into the sunshine. The camp was well supported by donations of groceries from several church-women's groups and from Avon Toc H. Valuable publicity came from Radio Avon and 3ZB as well as local newspapers.

What will be remembered? The enthusiasm of both volunteers and children; the weary way in which volunteers sank into their armchairs when they had put the children to bed; the heartache when the children had to leave. It was the volunteers who were most upset. We learned that children are children, intellectually handicapped or not. Roll on October when we hold a reunion party, and next year when Toc H gets its second IHC camp.

## Well done!

Shavington Toc H Boys' Club football team, which plays in the Crewe and District Football League, has created a unique record by receiving the accolade of local referees as the best-behaved team in the district for the fourth time in five seasons. Shavington Toc H, who have not had a player cautioned throughout the season, have been awarded the Crewe and District Referees' Society's Good Conduct Cup.

Said Referees' Society secretary, Neville Ashley: 'The award reflects a great deal of credit on Mr Geoff Cockshott, their manager, for motivating his players to compete with this exemplary code of conduct.'



Mundesley's inshore rescue boat crew received a new boat kit (hand compass, flares and tools) from the local Toc H. Mr Harry Rudram, Toc H skipper, is handing over the kit to the crew's first officer  
Photo: Peter Cox

## Nice one, Ken!

Ken Rogers, Festival Secretary, was stopped outside the Toc H offices in Wendover recently by a man sporting a camera and asking, 'Can I come in and take a few pictures, please?'

'Yes,' said Ken, 'what would you like to photograph?'

'Your weeds, please,' said the enthusiast. 'You have a very good selection.'

## Staff Changes

Hilary Geater will be leaving the staff at the end of August to start work with the Birmingham Education Authority. She has been seconded for six months to set up, and teach in, a centre for children who have been suspended from school.

Helen Meads, long-term volunteer based in Birmingham, will be leaving Toc H to take up employment with the Civil Service in the city.

Alan Guy, who has been working from the Cardiff Centre, will also be leaving the Toc H staff to study for a doctorate at Oxford University.

Good luck and good wishes, Hilary, Helen and Alan!

## Jubilee plans

Bill Gibbons, PRO for Peterborough and Stamford District, writes that local plans to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee are now in hand. It is hoped to hold a service in Peterborough Cathedral to be followed by a garden party and a visit to the recently opened Key Theatre. A dinner is being arranged at a leading Stamford hotel and a local amateur dramatic group has offered to give a concert for Toc H, if Toc H makes the arrangements for a hall and publicity.

The Alexandra Day collection organised by the Peterborough and Stamford District raised the sum of £301.48. The Family Purse will benefit by £250.

## JUBILEE PUBLICITY TEAM

If your full-time job is in any way connected with the creative side of newspapers, advertising or public relations, you could be useful to the PR office in forming a Jubilee Publicity Team.

Contact Huw Gibbs immediately. Wendover 623911.



## Talbot House Jubilee

Harry Buckle, Warden, Talbot House

Tuesday 18 June was a bright cheery day and augured well for the Jubilee celebrations of Talbot House, Southampton. The Young Seafarers' Club was commemorating 50 years of service and to share in the celebrations were residents from the past and present. The guest list included many of the supporters from years ago whom we were glad to see.

Jack Hailey Clarke, warden in the 'thirties, attended with his sister Judith. Jack (who is Vice-President of the club) was in fine form and was overjoyed to meet some of his 'old boys'. Then there was Dick Hughes and his wife, who ran the club in the late 'fifties. They knew any number of the guests. Unfortunately, Ted Hillman, who was the warden during the early 'sixties, was unable to come. 'Sandy' and Meg Giles, Gilbert and Rita Francis and George and Kathy Barnett came from Headquarters and appeared to enjoy the event enormously.

The commemoration service in the Missions to Seamen chapel, not a stone's throw from the club, proved a very moving experience.

The chapel was packed and the service was conducted by Rev S Roberts, assisted by Rev Crispin White and Rev Jim Hawthorne. An inspiring address was given by Rev Ken Bloxham, one-time Toc H staff member and now retired.

The reception afterwards in Talbot House went with a swing. The ladies of Milford-on-Sea helped greatly with the eats and the superb flower arrangements. The finances for all this were contributed by Toc H HQ, Milford-on-Sea Toc H Ladies, Presidents, Vice-Presidents of the club and members of the committee. Padre Roberts of the Missions to Seamen kindly gave the collection to the club.

With such stalwart support, backed by the club's staff and the residents, how could the event be other than successful? So there was happy talk, laughter and merriment, and even the clearing up afterwards didn't defuse the situation and many willing hands helped to get everything back to normal for the next morning's breakfast!



George Barnett (Finance Secretary); Commander R F Wells, OBE, DSC, RN (President of the club); the Mayor and Mayoress of Southampton; 'Sandy' Giles (Director);

Gilbert Francis (General Secretary); and Rear Admiral J G B Cooke, CB, DSC (Chairman of the Management Committee) at Talbot House  
Photo: H J Wood

## Lucky Thirteen

Fifty pence is the price of enjoying the thirteenth cricket match organised by local branches of Toc H at Penrith. The proceeds will help to pay for an outing for physically handicapped people. 'One only has to see the faces of our guests to appreciate how much they enjoy the event,' said Mr Edward Hobley, the secretary of the Carlisle branch of Toc H.

## Success for Tape Series

Members have responded well to the invitation to join the newly formed 'Topic on Tape' club. Fifty foundation subscribers have enrolled and the first programme, entitled 'These changing years—the job of regional staff', will deal with the stresses and demands which influence the types of training and personality needed to cope with the job of Toc H field work. The second programme will be a discussion about Toc H finance, and this will be followed by practical hints on programme planning. Edinburgh branch intend to use the series to back up in-branch training next year. Bill Gibbons, PRO for Peterborough and Stamford District, writes, 'We see the new tape scheme as an excellent way of keeping the membership informed on Family affairs.'

The subscription is only £1.50 per year for a supply of four programmes, and the PR office at Wendover will be glad to add your branch to the circulation list.

## Canon D E Benbow

Canon D E Benbow of 1 Conway Close, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent, would like to hear from his old friends from the Oxford branch and Toc H Rover Crew.